

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 05324 101535 Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
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O 101515 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2051

S E C R E T BEIRUT 5324

EXDIS

EO 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PINS PFOR LE

SUBJECT: SUGGESTED MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY TO PRESIDENT FRANGIE

1. WE REALIZE DEPT IS CONSIDERING POSSIBLE MEASURES TO BE TAKEN SHOULD SYRIANS INTERVENE AND WE RECEIVE FORMAL REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM GOL. WE ALSO REALIZE THAT DEVISING EFFECTIVE MEASURES IS NOT AN EASY TASK GIVEN OUR PRESENT POSITION IN THE AREA AND THE FACT THAT WE ARE BEING CONTINUALLY ATTACKED HERE INTER ALIA BY BOTH SYRIAN AND MORE IRRESPONSIBLE LEBANESE PRESS FOR INVOLVEMENT ISRAELI BEIRUT RAID APRIL 10 AND EVEN FOR INSPIRING PRESENT CRISIS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING ON FYI BASIS ANY TENTATIVE IDEAS DEPT MAY HAVE DEVELOPED. SYRIA REMAINS IN OUR JUDGMENT VITAL FACTOR FOR RESOLUTION PRESENT CRISIS.

2. HOWEVER, LEBANESE BADLY IN NEED OF FRIENDS AND REASSURANCE AND PARTICULARLY SOME INDICATION OF US SUPPORT DURING THIS TROUBLED PERIOD. ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO' S REMARKS TO KABBANI (STATE 88229) EXPRESSING OUR CONCERN AND WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER ANY LEBANESE REQUEST TO HELP WERE VERY HELPFUL THIS REGARD AND HAVE BEEN WELL RECEIVED BY GOL.

3. WE THINK IT WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL IF THE SECRETARY COULD SEND A CONFIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT FRANGIE WHICH WE COULD PASS ORALLY. MESSAGE COULD EXPRESS OUR
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CONCERN, FACT THAT DEPT IS FOLLOWING SITUATION CLOSELY
AND READY CONSIDER ANY REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE
AND REAFFIRM IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO LEBANESE
INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. ADMITTEDLY,
THIS COULD RAISE GOL EXPECTATIONS, BUT I THINK THIS
POSSIBILITY IS OFFSET BY REASSURANCE WHICH OUR CONCERN
AND SUPPORT WOULD PROVIDE.

4. SOVIET AMBASSADOR CALLED ON PRESIDENT FRANGIE THIS
MORNING AND MAY WELL HAVE OFFERED ASSISTANCE TO LEBS
AS HE DID AFTER ISRAELI RAID IN SEPTEMBER 1972. IT
WOULD THEREFORE BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL IF I COULD
PASS ORAL MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY TO PRESIDENT FRANGIE.
HOUGHTON

SECRET
NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BEIRUT05324
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: XGDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730540/aaaaioqa.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04-Jan-2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <16-Jan-2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980116
Subject: SUGGESTED MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY TO PRESIDENT FRANGIE
TAGS: PINS, LE, PFOR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005